

# Community Charge

ISSUE #8

MAY 15 TO MAY 31



## THE MALL THAT EATS PEOPLE

To often when a city such as Hamilton gets a new face, its an ugly one. The addition of the Eaton Centre to the downtown shopping district has at best generated some new jobs, at worse its a symbol of the bigger monotonous companies gobbling up the smaller business which are disappearing at an alarming rate. However this is not the half of it! The Eaton Centre/Loyd D. Jackson Square has taken it upon itself to police the young and poor of the area. On several occasions undercover cops, acting on their own and at the

request of store managers (and not other shoppers) have approached young people who wear easily identifiable clothing, requesting they go down to a white room in the basement of the square. At which point photographs and a description of the person and their clothes are taken.

The description we have been given of the undercover cops is a blonde white man roughly five'eight, wearing a Raiders football jacket and black baseball hat, who looks no older than 17 or 18. We realise this is not very specific, however the other

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## Keep on Truckin'



1,200 truck drivers and their rigs jammed highway 401 on May 15th and 16th, to protest for the plight of the Canadian trucking industry. Truck drivers are the latest victims of the Canada/U.S. free trade deal which has removed tariffs from

American truckers, allowing them unlimited access to the Canadian market. Canadian truck drivers have found it next to impossible to compete with American truckers who fill up in the U.S. with gasoline that is half the price.

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## MOVE MASSACRE AND MUMIA

May 13 marks the 6th anniversary of the Vietnam style bombing on a city block in Philadelphia. In 1985, 100s of Philadelphia police served a warrant to the residence of 6221 Osage St. This was the home of a self-determining black community organization called MOVE who violated a court order by using a loud speaker on their roof. MOVE refused to leave the house out of fear for their lives and refusal to back down to the police instigated confrontation. At 5:25 PM, the city dropped a bomb on the MOVE house which ended up burning down 61 homes and leaving 250 people homeless. 11 out of the 13 MOVE members died as a result, two of which were children shot in the back while running down an alley trying to escape the fiery blaze. This was a planned action organized by the city in order to eliminate MOVE. Several MOVE members still languish in prison from a police attack in 1978. The nine members arrested were can't pg. 3

## DAM THOSE DAMS

Currently in Canada, three major dam projects are being developed, the Oldman River Dam, the Rafferty Alameda and James Bay 2. The effects of the Oldman River Dam being built in Southwestern Alberta have been revealed to be hazardous not only to the Peigan Indians, who live on the banks of the Oldman River but also to the environment. Some of the immediate effects will be the destruction of habitat home to mule deer, birds of prey and several rare plant species. The dam will also cause serious soil erosion and the closure of a fishery. Water that is clean will soon become polluted on Peigan land. This, similar to what has happened to the Cree in Northern Quebec, will lead to levels of toxicity in fish and other hunted animals. The dam is near completion after 3 years of construction.

There has been resistance to this project. Milton Born With a Tooth, a Peigan Lone-fighter, was arrested on September 13, 1990 after a confrontation with police and government workers on September 7, 1990. This event occurred after the Peigan Lonefighters set up camp on the banks of the Oldman and dug a diversion ditch on the river that would render the dam useless. The government sent in the police after this had been done and Milton

fired the camps only gun twice into the air. For this, Milton now faces 18 months in jail if his appeal in late May is turned down.

Despite all of the protests by natives and environmentalists, the Alberta government still refuses to reconsider this disastrous project. This refusal has triggered the thought that the dam's purpose is not to help the 100 sugarbeet farmers as proposed but actually a link in a proposed interbasin water transfer scheme designed over 20 years ago. The interbasin transfer is a plan to divert water flowing north to the Arctic back south to southern Alberta. The water will not be used by Albertans but will be pumped south into the water hungry U.S. The construction of another dam project the Rafferty-Alameda in Saskatchewan adds to these suspicions. The insistence of the Saskatchewan government to build these dams is so strong that the Federal

environmental panel hired to review the dams quit after the province refused to stop working on them. The project is now working on around the clock so it will be finished before more protests arise.

One of the most important aspects of this dam is the insistence of the U.S. that these dams be built. The reason is that the U.S. has already given \$17 million out of \$50 million to the province. Why is Saskatchewan being paid \$50 million by the U.S. to build dams that are supposed to provide irrigation and recreation for the people living in Saskatchewan? Once again the interbasin transfer scheme comes up.

The people of Saskatchewan are being fed the usual crap that the dams are for irrigation or to help cool the Shand Power Plant. Both reasons have been shown to be false. Most farmers in Saskatchewan have had bad experiences with irrigation from dams, problems like falling land prices and

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## MALL GONT

known cop's picture appeared in a recent Spectator for the arrest of a fifteen year old skinhead, who urinated on jewish tombstones. We are giving these descriptions because these harassments are an abuse of your rights! You have no legal obligation to accompany them to this room

or give a statement or say anything. You may have to leave the premises if they ask you to, BUT THAT'S IT! We ask either boycott this unnecessary mall or do not let them push you around. As long as the malls are there, lets take them on our terms!



## MOVE CON'T

charged with the murder of a cop and all received a sentence of 30 to 100 years. Evidence shows that MOVE could not have possibly killed him and it is speculated that the bullet came from another cop's gun.

Mumia Abu Jamal, a former Black Panther member and supporter of MOVE, was the only journalist to reveal MOVE's side of what happened during their mass trial in 1979. Mumia, better known as 'the Voice of the Voiceless', used his journalistic skills

and radio show on WUHY to focus on the community in Philadelphia. His actions were feared by the state and in turn Mumia became a target of the FBI counter intelligence program (COINTELPRO) partially directed at demobilizing black community organizations.

On December 9, 1981, while driving his cab, Mumia had stopped when a black man was seen being beaten by a cop. Planning to intervene unarmed, Mumia was shot and moments latter the cop lay dead by a weapon that was never retrieved. Mumia was

charged with murder in the first degree even though substantial evidence has shown him to be innocent. Mumia's situation is critical for he has exhausted all of his appeals and sits on death row in Huntington Prison, PA. awaiting his execution this year. The case of Mumia Abu Jamal and MOVE shows the extent that the American government will go to silence community activism.

## TRUCK CON'T

De-regulation brought to the industry by the federal government has removed some relief the truckers had from absorbantly taxed Canadian gasoline prices. Prices which recently have seen another rise of 1.7 cents a litre due to tax increases in the new Ontario budget. The de-regulation combined tax increase threatens the livelihood of thousands of Canadian truckers, who have seen 800 jobs already lost since de-regulation came in. American truckers can also claim their rigs as a tax write off within three years, it takes thirteen years for Canadian Truckers to do the same here. So the truckers have taken their anger to the streets these past few weeks.

Earlier this month, truckers did a symbolic blockade of the Ambas-sador bridge

running from Windsor to Detroit. The two day occupation ended when the federal government agreed to talk with the truckers. These talks proved fruitless and the truckers once again took their grievances to the streets. On May 13th truck drivers tried to surround the Parliament buildings in Ottawa but were pushed back by Provincial police. Frustrated truckers left Ottawa on a trek to Toronto, where they began slow downs on the 401 near Bellville, when the convoy reached Toronto the high-way had to be shutdown, causing major traffic jams during rush hour.

All in all the truckers have had the support of the public. One passerby commented "If I had a truck, I'd be out there with them."

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Mumia Abu Jamal

For further information and donations can be sent to:  
Partisan Defense Committee  
P.O. Box 99, Canal St.  
Station, New York, NY 10013.  
Letters of protest can be sent to the Governor of Pennsylvania, Robert Casey, Main Capital Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Letters to Mumia Abu Jamal #M8335, Drawer R, Huntington, PA 16652.

## TRUCKER'S CON'T

Other forms of support came from people who showed up with placards and hung banners over bridges showing solidarity with the truckers. After an overnight shutdown of the highway the truckers ended their occupation when the federal government agreed to a new round of talks. The truck drivers agreed not to initiate any slow downs during this past Victoria holiday weekend, which also would instill public support. The truckers vowed to be back on the road again if talks proved fruitless. (e.g. As predicted the truckers are out again when talks cut off).

On the provincial level, Ontario's "socialist" NDP government were quick to pass the buck, blaming the federal government solely for the plight of the truckers, yet offering no support from the effects of their own tax levy. The federal conservative government seems to be holding firm to its de-regulation policy, which shows a dangerous trend that is following patterns in the U.S. and Britain.

The Canada/U.S. free trade deal has already resulted in thousands of Canadian jobs lost, combined with policies such as de-regulation the situation will only get worse! It is not hard to understand why the truckers are receiving public support, we wish them our best!

## DAMS CON'T

others have proved that the irrigation of dry land creates more problems than it solves. As for the power plant, it can be air cooled and that the dam is being built 4 to 5 times larger than needed for the power plant.

The need for the plant itself is now being questioned. The development of these two dams and the ideas that they will be used to redirect the flow of water



is gaining more attention. With plans in the U.S., the Grand Canal and North American Water and Power Alliance, needing these dams in order to be successful only further proves that our natural resources will be funnelled to the U.S. at the expense of native americans and the environment. James Bay 2. (see issue #6, Community Charge) further proves this point. Flooding 3 million acres of habitat and Cree land to provide cheap energy to industry and the U.S. makes no sense. The cost of these three projects is unnecessary

and to high a price for Canadians to pay. For more information please contact, Friends of the Oldman River, 455 - 12th St.N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2N 1Y9; Citizens Concerned About Free Trade, National Office, P.O. Box 8052 Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4R7; Grand Council of the Cree, 24 Bayswater Ave., Ottawa, ON., K1Y 2E4.

## WHOOOOOOAAA FUCK

We sincerely apologize for including the article "The History of May Day" by Fred Woodworth in the last issue. Although the article had some good points, we do not agree with the content and found inaccuracies in the article, nor do we sympathize with Samuel Gompers' attitudes and policies. As well in the article "A Call to Farms", the region of Pembina was spelt incorrectly. Once again we apologize for our lack of organization.

COMMUNITY CHARGE covers local and international news from an anti-statist perspective. If you wish to contribute too, or receive this newsletter, please send an SASE to:

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